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The Communist Manifesto Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels

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Summary

The Communist Manifesto reflects an attempt to explain the goals of Communism, as well as the theory underlying this movement. It argues that class struggles, or the exploitation of one class by another, are the motivating force behind all historical developments. Class relationships are defined by an era's means of production. However, eventually these relationships cease to be compatible with the developing forces of production. At this point, a revolution occurs and a new class emerges as the ruling one. This process represents the "march of history" as driven by larger economic forces.



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Modern Industrial society in specific is characterized by class conflict between the bourgeoisie and proletariat. However, the productive forces of capitalism are quickly ceasing to be compatible with this exploitative relationship.



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Summary

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Summary and Analysis

Introduction and Section 1, Bourgeois and Proletarians (Part 1)

Section 1, Bourgeois and Proletarians (Part 2)

Section 2, Proletarians and Communists

Section 3, Socialist and Communist Literature

Section 4, Position of the Communists in Relation to the Various Existing Opposition Parties

Study Questions

Review Quiz

Further Reading

How to Cite This SparkNote



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Thus, the proletariat will lead a revolution. However, this revolution will be of a different character than all previous ones: previous revolutions simply reallocated property in favor of the new ruling class. However, by the nature of their class, the members of the proletariat have no way of appropriating property. Therefore, when they obtain control they will have to destroy all ownership of private property, and classes

themselves will disappear.

The Manifesto argues that this development is inevitable, and that capitalism is inherently unstable. The Communists intend to promote this revolution, and will promote the parties and associations that are moving history towards its natural conclusion. They argue that the elimination of social classes cannot come about through reforms or changes in government. Rather, a revolution will be required.

The Communist Manifesto has four sections. In the first section, it discusses the Communists' theory of history and the relationship between proletarians and bourgeoisie. The second section explains the relationship between the Communists and the proletarians. The third section addresses the flaws in other, previous socialist literature. The final section discusses the relationship between the Communists and other parties.

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Readers' Notes

Most Helpful Readers' Notes (1 total)

Class Notes

by [werewoofsANDvampies](#), August 22, 2012

-Feuerbach and etc *(copy notes from class)*



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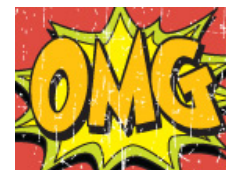
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